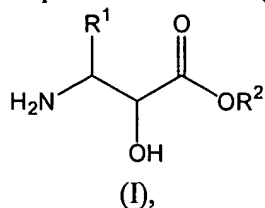


IN THE CLAIMS

1 (currently amended): A compound of formula (I)



or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkylsulfanylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, ~~(heterocycle)alkyl~~, and hydroxyalkyl; and

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkenyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl[[,]] and (cycloalkyl)alkyl[[,]] ~~heterocycle, and (heterocycle)alkyl~~.

2 (original): The compound of claim 1 wherein R^2 is hydrogen.

3 (original): The compound of claim 2 wherein R^1 is alkylsulfanylalkyl.

4 (original): The compound of claim 3 selected from the group consisting of
(2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(methylsulfanyl)pentanoic acid;
(2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoic acid;
(2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(isopropylsulfanyl)pentanoic acid; and
(2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(*tert*-butylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoic acid.

5 (original): The compound of claim 2 wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, and hydroxyalkyl.

6 (original): The compound of claim 5 selected from the group consisting of
(2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-4-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxybutanoic acid;
(2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-3-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxypropanoic acid;
(2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-phenylpentanoic acid;
(2*S*,3*R*,4*S*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-4-(3-hydroxypropyl)-7-methyloctanoic acid; and
(2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-6-phenylhexanoic acid.

7 (original): The compound of claim 1 wherein R^2 is arylalkyl.

8 (original): The compound of claim 7 wherein R^1 is alkylsulfanylalkyl.

9 (original): The compound of claim 8 selected from the group consisting of

(2*S*)-2-(methylamino)-2-(1-naphthyl)ethyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate;
 (2*R*)-2-(methylamino)-2-(1-naphthyl)ethyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate;
 2-(methylamino)-2-(1-naphthyl)propyl (3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate;
 and
 benzyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate.

10 (original): The compound of claim 7 wherein R¹ is selected from the group consisting of arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, and (cycloalkyl)alkyl.

11 (original): The compound of claim 10 selected from the group consisting of
 benzyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-3-cyclopentyl-2-hydroxypropanoate;
 benzyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-3-cycloheptyl-2-hydroxypropanoate;
 (2*R*)-2-(methylamino)-2-(1-naphthyl)ethyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-4-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxybutanoate; and
 (2*R*)-2-(methylamino)-2-(1-naphthyl)ethyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-phenylpentanoate.

12 (original): The compound of claim 1 wherein R² is alkyl.

13 (original): The compound of claim 12 selected from the group consisting of
 methyl (3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(methylsulfanyl)pentanoate;
 methyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-4-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxybutanoate;
 methyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate;
 butyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate;
 isopropyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(isopropylsulfanyl)pentanoate;
 isopropyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate;
sec-butyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate; and
sec-butyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(isopropylsulfanyl)pentanoate.

14 (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 wherein R² is selected from the group consisting of alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl[[,]] and aryl[[,]] ~~heterocycle and (heterocycle)alkyl~~.

15 (currently amended): The compound of claim 14 selected from the group consisting of
 (1*S*,2*R*)-2-amino-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-1-yl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-4-cyclohexyl-2-hydroxybutanoate;

[(2,2-dimethylpropanoyl)oxy]methyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate[[]] and
~~(1,3-dioxo-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-isoindol-2-yl)methyl (2*RS*,3*R*)-3-amino-5-(ethylsulfanyl)-2-hydroxypentanoate;~~
 [(2,2-dimethylpropanoyl)oxy]methyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(isopropylsulfanyl)pentanoate[[]]
~~(1,3-dioxo-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-isoindol-2-yl)methyl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(isopropylsulfanyl)pentanoate; and~~
~~3-oxo-1,3-dihydro-2-benzofuran-1-yl (2*S*,3*R*)-3-amino-2-hydroxy-5-(isopropylsulfanyl)pentanoate.~~

16 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1, or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with a therapeutically acceptable carrier.

claims 17-18 (cancelled)